

NAPTON SPORTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 2024

It has been a highly exciting and productive year for sport within the village.

The site has continued to be maintained to a high standard and has seen advancements in the facilities on offer. Of note is the major update of the All-Weather Service which has been revamped to be a state-of-the-art 5G playing service which is being regularly used - particularly by local youth teams. Plans continue to be in place to install a Pétanque facility and the consideration of a Padel Tennis court is ongoing. A major project as we look forward is the renovation of the floodlights for the Tennis and All Weather Surface. New LED Lights are looking to be fitted to replace the current, original halogen ones - these will be far better environmentally and have lower running costs. The NSA marquee has been extensively used over the last 12 months to support various village activities including the Napton Music Festival and the village bonfire.

The NSA / NPC Licence Agreement has been renewed for 2024 and donations have been made to NPC to support sporting activities generally in the Napton area. Good financial control continues to be maintained and accounts kept in good order.

Club membership levels have generally been maintained and a range of social events continue to be arranged across the Affiliated Clubs. It has been great to see a resurgence in Netball within the village. A local group of players have come together for weekly training sessions. The NSA, alongside the affiliated clubs, are supporting this group where possible.

NSA Officers / Representatives are mostly unchanged except for the NSA Secretary role which has been taken over by Ed Shillitoe after Dave Evans stepped down. The Chairman, Tony Gilbert, has expressed his intentions to pass on the reins at the AGM in May and suitable replacements have come forward.

This year the AGM is scheduled to take place on 14th May 2024 at 8:15p.m. in the Victory Club when all interested parties will be welcome to attend.

At the time of writing, the membership of the NSA Committee is as follows:

Honorary President	Vacant
Chairman	Tony Gilbert
Vice Chairman	Dave Cooper
Treasurer	Graham Line
Secretary	Ed Shillitoe
Football Representatives	Pete Barfield / Liam Southwick
Tennis Representatives	Hilly Honess / Jayne Warman
Cricket Representatives	Sam Sensecall / Gary Speller
Netball Representative	Gabby Boyle
NPC	Will Watson

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The sports facilities and pavilion continue to be very well used by the community, with football, tennis, cricket and a newly formed netball team all meeting regularly. During the summer there is also archery lessons available.

The pavilion is used by the Brownies, and the Arc School on a regular basis. There is also a healthy income generated by private hire for parties, wakes etc.

There is now also fitness equipment, and a table tennis table situated in the grounds. As a committee, our main aim during the last financial year was to complete the surface on the all-weather court. This has now been completed and provides possibly one of the best facilities of its type in the area, which is hired out several times a week.

For the forthcoming year, we are aiming to replace the floodlights on both the multi-use and the tennis courts. The matter is in progress at the time of writing.

After 25 years on the NSA Committee, I am stepping down from my role as Chairman and Dave Evans has recently given up his position as Secretary. Ed Shillitoe is now in situ as Secretary and Tim Coker is expected to take on the role of Chairman, commencing after the AGM in May.

I'm pleased to say that, as I step away from being Chairman, the facilities are all in very good condition and being well used and the Committee, continue to work hard to provide excellent sporting opportunities for the village. I'd like to thank the members of the NSA Committee, past and present for all their help and support over the years and wish them well for the future.

Tony Gilbert

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The NSA's finances remain in good order. Expenditure looking after and maintaining the site has slightly increased over the last year due to the anticipated inflationary pressures. Electricity costs are higher, but principally because of the increased use of the all-weather football pitch over the winter months, a cost that will be recovered from the Football Club in the contributions that they will pay next year.

The increased contributions from the Clubs have match the increase in costs and it is anticipated that these contributions will need to increase again to maintain this position and it might be that the Parish Council might also increase the annual grant that it provides to the NSA, as this has fundamentally remained the same for over a decade.

The result of the above was that the NSA's accounts for the financial year ending 30th April so far shows a surplus of c£1,600, with the NSA continuing to hold funds of c£18,500.

The previous year's accounts (2022/23) were fully audited and submitted to the Charities Commission and this process is in hand for the financial year 2023/24.

FOOTBALL CLUB REPORT

The football team is enjoying a successful season to date, winning the majority of games so far, although poor weather conditions has made the season stop/start with games being cancelled. The team is looking forward to a strong end to the season. The all-weather surface has been refurbished giving the village and the surrounding kids team a great facility to play on, with the pitch getting great usage. The village vets team are continuing the play weekly with numbers high.

TENNIS CLUB REPORT

Competitive tennis

The ladies' team continues to take part in the Evesham and Stratford leagues which run all year round. Currently there is no men's team playing league matches. A number of friendly matches were organised last summer which were well received and these will be continuing in the coming months.

Social tennis

Regular weekly sessions are run on Wednesday evenings, Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. This year a social session for junior members has been introduced. This has taken some time to get off the ground but is now proving increasingly popular and the Club is looking for other clubs with juniors who would be interested in playing friendly matches.

Our Christmas tournament proved extremely popular and so we are planning to run tournaments more regularly, probably every quarter.

Maintenance

The club paid for the courts to be professionally cleaned in January. As well as prolonging the life of the surface it helps to improve drainage and makes sure the courts don't become slippery.

The summer house was treated with wood preservative in the summer and the decking at the front was replaced. Recycled plastic was used instead of wood as this will last much longer.

A key safe has been installed.

Club administration

The LTA ClubSpark online system which enables members to pay their membership fees and make court bookings is being used. The Club website provides all the information needed by members or interested future members and this can also be accessed through ClubSpark.

The club AGM is planned for Wed 3rd April.

Fees for the new season are due on 1st April. It has been decided to increase all fees by a small amount to keep pace with inflation.

Coaching

The coaching programme continues to thrive and caters for all ages and abilities.

The Club currently has over 40 adults and children taking part in group lessons each week. There are also Tennis Camps for children in the Easter & Summer Holidays.

The coaching programme is one of the main ways new members are attracted. This is particularly so with the juniors.

CRICKET CLUB REPORT

2023 saw a continuation of the impressive form of Napton's Sunday Cricket Team. Tour.

The playing season was a tremendous success with matches played in great spirit regardless of result.

The finest teas on the circuit were yet again provided by an able crew of wives, girlfriends and players.

A touring party of some 20 members travelled to Sheffield in early September for cricket, ale, wild swimming and no small measure of age-appropriate disco dancing.

The Annual Steak and Ale evening was held at the Folly and was well attended by both playing and social members.

Local band, and occasional cricketers, Singe provided after dinner entertainment at the End of Season Dinner Dance where attendees were treated to an excellent three course meal and some inspiring speeches from Captain and Vice-Captain, Mike Eadon and Olly O'Brien.

The Club continues to invest in its facilities and with a dedicated team of volunteers, ably led by head groundsman, Graham Line, the playing surface and outfield have never been in such good condition. The clubs purchase of wicket covers for the 2024 season should assist with keeping the playing surface in good order.

The club has for the 2024 season entered a local T20 league which will likely double the fixtures played. With this in mind, any parishioners who find themselves with a few spare hours are encouraged to contact the club through the usual channels.

Informal coaching of players children continues on Friday evening throughout the summer with many past attendees going on to represent our own team on a Sunday whilst also giving great account of themselves in league cricket on Saturdays within the wider area.

The Club continues to welcome new players into the fold.

It is thanks to the continued efforts of the Committee, Playing Members and Past Members that the Club continues to thrive.

NETBALL CLUB REPORT

The NSA are pleased to report that Netball has returned to Napton and is being enjoyed on a weekly basis. Currently the group are not an affiliated club and are in their early stages but the NSA, and affiliated clubs, are supporting the group as they develop.